REMARKS

Claims 1-13 currently remain in the application. Claims 3 and 5-13 are herein amended.

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a translation of the application originally filed in Japanese as International Application No. PCT/JP04/01669 on February 16, 2004 (claiming priority on Japanese Patent Application 2003-038609 filed February 17, 2003), which is being submitted simultaneously herewith in response to NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATIED/ELECTED OFFICE mailed May 3, 2006. Consideration of this application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted primarily for establishing a priority relationship, for eliminating claiming depending from another dependent claim that depends from a plurality of claims and for rewriting the abstract section so as to contain to single paragraph instead of a plurality of paragraphs as appeared in the original application of which a copy of the translation is being submitted simultaneously herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Keiichi Nishimura

Registration No. 29,093

June 30, 2006
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
500 12th Street, Suite 200
Oakland, California 94607

Telephone: (510) 663-1100 Telefax: (510) 663-0920